

# WATCHUNG ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## MINUTES

FEBRUARY 22, 2016

**Present:** Karen Pennett, Don Pote, Jim and Andy Stout, Rachel Funcheon, George Sopko  
**Absent:** Sondra Epstein

### **Call to Order, Minutes:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30. The January minutes were discussed and approved with the following correction: In the "Calendar for 2016" paragraph, a duplicated "August 22" was eliminated.

**Tree Report:** No tree report.

### **Planning Board and Open Space Reports:**

Karen reported that there was no Planning Board report since the meeting was rescheduled for a later date. Jim reported that the Open Space Committee did not meet but several questions were then raised relative to the status of the Ness property. George will investigate and report an updated status at the March meeting.

### **Miscellaneous:**

**Bottle Caps:** Rachel made a correction to last week's discussion: In the "Bottle Caps" paragraph, the recycling is done by a company in Minnesota, not Wisconsin. She also reported that she submitted an article and picture of the bottle cap display board, now located in the foyer of the library, for the next issue of the town's newsletter. She will e-mail EC members a copy of her written newsletter article and updated status.

Don complimented Rachel on her efforts for proposing and constructing the bottle cap display board, making the arrangements for its placement in the library and for the article submitted for the newsletter. She will forward a copy of her newsletter submission to the Commission members.

**Somerset County Recycling:** Rachel reported on two phone conversations: 1. The Somerset County Recycling Coordinator explained why plastic caps and lids were not accepted in our recycling stream and 2. Personnel at Preserve Company, a recycler of bottle caps, explained the "float system" method to separate out #5 plastic materials.

**Pipeline Matters:** Rachel gave a brief updated status of the Pilgrim pipeline. Some 28 of 29 towns affected have come out against this project. Mayors/council members of a majority of these towns recently attended a municipal meeting of elected officials to discuss strategy to fight the pipeline and to discuss specific environmental impact to their towns. Watchung is among the towns that have developed an environmental impact letter.

**Watchung Green Fair:** Watchung's Green Team has tentatively established April 30<sup>th</sup> as the date for this event. Time and place to be determined. Volunteers are being solicited.

**Other:** It was mentioned that a diesel gasoline spill on Oakwood Road was the subject of a recent cleanup.

**Assignments for next meeting:** George will report status of Ness property.

Rachel will update status and e-mail copy of EC newsletter article.  
All: A decision: Green Team volunteer for Green Fair?

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:57PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, March 28, 2016 at Borough Hall at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Don Pote, Secretary  
Watchung Environmental Commission